

9 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Science & Technology)

SUBJECT : Automatic Language Processing (ALP)
System

1. Purpose

This is to request that funds be made available for the acquisition of an Automatic Language Processing (ALP) System for the Agency. Approximately [REDACTED] 25X1A1A

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[REDACTED] for special components and [REDACTED] for standard hardware) is required to lease the ALP hardware for one year. The developmental work in providing the special equipment and computer programs for ALP will be performed by the [REDACTED] 25X1A1A
[REDACTED] 25X1A5A1
at no cost to the Government. [REDACTED] 25X1A5A1

2. Identification

ALP is a Computer System which will perform two major types of operations.

- a. In the Stenewriter Mode of operation ALP will automatically transcribe data from machine shorthand (stenograph notes) to English.
- b. In the Machine Translation Mode of operation ALP will automatically translate from Russian to English.

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3. Objectives

OCS's first objective with ALP is to serve the Foreign Documents Division, Office of Central Reference. ALP will eliminate the need for typing English language documents from dictated translations and it will provide machine-assisted translation of Russian texts to English. Thus, Agency translation requirements will be carried out with greater speed and efficiency. Other objectives include exploiting the capabilities ALP provides for using Stenographs to prepare data in machine readable language and for utilizing the techniques advanced with the photo-scopic disk as they relate to Project [REDACTED] and other ADP applications. A long-range objective is to attain perfection in machine translation for all languages. 25X1A2D2

4. Background and Coordination

25X1A5A1 Since October 1962, the Agency has been actively
25X1A5A1 interested in an Automatic Language Processing System to
perform Stenowriter and Machine Translation functions.
In 1962 the [REDACTED] demonstrated a predecessor
system (the [REDACTED] which it had developed for the
Air Force and proposed an improved system for the CIA.
25X1A5A1 In 1963 the [REDACTED] proposed a similar system.
After a thorough comparison of proposals and of the exper-
25X1A5A1 ience and capabilities of the two corporations, the
Agency selected [REDACTED] to furnish ALP. Following is a recap
of management background papers on ALP:

11 April 1963:
(DD/I Concurrence)

Memorandum to Comptroller
from Chief, ADPD and Chief,
FDD, Procurement of Automation
for FDD.

--recommended procurement of
Steno/MT equipment.

--concurrence of DD/I signed
by [REDACTED]

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3 July 1963:
(DD/S Concurrence)

Note from the Deputy Director (Support) stating his concurrence in the plan to proceed with ALP.

10 July 1963:
(CIA ADP Committee Concurrence)

Memorandum to Comptroller from Chairman, CIA Automatic Data Processing Committee, Stenowriter Proposal.

--The CIA ADP Committee endorsed the ADPS/FDD proposal of 11 April 1963 for the procurement of a Steno/MT System and recommended the acquisition of hardware.

24 September 1963: Memorandum to Acting Comptroller from AD/CS, Stenowriter/Machine Translation Project.

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--requested concurrence in the selection of [REDACTED] as contractor to furnish the Steno/MT System.

--signed (concurrence) by Acting Comptroller on 1 October 1963.

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29 November 1963: Letter to [REDACTED] from (Official notice to [REDACTED]) the Office of Logistics.

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--notice that the Agency had selected [REDACTED] to provide an Automatic Language Processing (ALP) System (to perform Stenowriter and Machine Translation functions).

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5. Contract

[REDACTED] has indicated that, in order to proceed, a contract must be negotiated because the special-purpose hardware and software to be leased for ALP is not covered in the existing Government (GSA) contracts with [REDACTED]. The contract will commit the Agency to leasing the ALP hardware for a minimum period of one year following installation and acceptance of the proposed system. If the system serves its intended purposes, we expect that the Agency will extend this lease arrangement or purchase the hardware. (Total system lease: [REDACTED] annum; purchase: [REDACTED])

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6. Technical Specifications

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As a result of earlier actions, the Office of Logistics has copies of the [REDACTED] proposal, detailed system specifications, and a draft of contract clauses. [REDACTED] prepared this draft of contract clauses recommending a contract very much like their current GSA contract for the lease of standard EDP hardware to the Government.

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7. Security

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This contract relationship with [REDACTED] is unclassified.

8. Funds

Funds are required for leasing the ALP System. The system is to be available for lease fourteen months after date of the proposed contract. Based on the current status of negotiations, installation charges plus two months' rental will be charged in Fiscal Year 1965 (about [REDACTED]). Funds specifically designated for the ALP System and adequate to cover these charges exist in the approved OCS budget for FY 1965. The contract will obligate the Agency to pay ten months' (minimum) additional rent in Fiscal Year 1966 (about [REDACTED]).

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9. Recommendation

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I recommend the obligation of [REDACTED] for
leasing the Automatic Language Processing (ALP) System
for an initial rental period of one year.

JS/
JOSEPH BECKER
Assistant Director
Computer Services

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